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# REASONS

For applying to

## PARLIAMENT,

T H E

Ensuing S E S S I O N S,

For the REPEAL of so much of the

### CORPORATION and TEST-ACTS,

As affects the

*Protestant* D I S S E N T E R S; *K*

With an ADDRESS to the

### GENTLEMEN of the COMMITTEE.

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The S E C O N D E D I T I O N.

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REASONS

for saying so

PARLIAMENT

THE

Running Sessions

For the REPAIR of the Church of the

CORPORATION and TEST-ACTS

As they are

Proposed DISSENTERS

WITH AN APPENDIX to the

SENTENCES of the COMMITTEE

The Second Edition

LONDON:

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# REASONS

FOR

Applying to *Parliament*, the ensuing Sessions, for the Repeal of so much of the **CORPORATION and TEST-ACTS**, as affects the *Protestant Dissenters*; with an Address to the Gentlemen of the *Committee*.

 **HAT** as the Incapacities complained of, are a great Infringement on our civil and religious Rights, injurious to the Cause of Liberty in general, and of the Protestant Dissenters in particular, greatly prejudicial to His Majesty's Government, and the true Interest even of the Church of *England* itself, scarce any Time can be improper to apply for their Removal.

II. That our great Patience and Submission, under Hardships of so long Continuance, however laudable in itself, may, in Time, be turned to our Disadvantage; either by being made an Objection against removing these, or by rendering it more practicable to inflict others.

III. That most, if not all, the publick Favours the Dissenters have ever obtained, have been obtained at such a Time as this, *viz.* in the View of a new Parliament, when our Votes and Interest are of the greatest Consequence.

IV. That so strong and violent Opposition has been made of late Years to all the Measures of the Government, that it is of the utmost Consequence to the Peace and Welfare of the Nation to secure a Parliament in His Majesty's Interest; which can never be obtained without the general Concurrence of the Protestant Dissenters, whose Influence and Service would be greatly increased by the proposed Relief.

V. That



V. That whatever be the Resolution of the Dissenters in *London*, it will be impossible, unless stronger Reasons be given than have hitherto appeared, to prevent a vigorous Application from the Country ; who were prevailed with to decline it last Year, only upon the Assurances of their Friends in *London* assisting them the ensuing Sessions ; It will be our Wisdom therefore to join heartily with them, if we are not determined to oppose ourselves, to give the Enemies an Advantage by our Divisions, and to make our Cause appear contemptible.

VI. That if the Inconveniences the Dissenters have suffered from these disqualifying Laws, one of which, at least, was originally designed only to exclude the Papists : If their quiet and peaceable Behaviour, under a long Series of Discouragements, tho' they have seen Rebels pardon'd, and Traitors to their Country obtain Mercy : If the Firmness and Vigour with which they have acted, and the numberless Dangers to which they have exposed themselves for the Support and Defence of the Protestant Succession : If their known Zeal and Affection for his present Majesty, and every Branch of the Royal Family : If none of these Considerations have had Weight enough in the Space of near sixty Years, to procure them the desired Repeal ; it is greatly to be feared, it will never be allowed to be a proper Time, so long as GREAT Men, among the Clergy, oppose it, or there are any Dissenters left in the Kingdom.

*Gentlemen of the Committee,*

These, amongst others, are the Reasons that have convinced a great Number of the Dissenters in *London*, that this is a proper Time to seek the Redress of those Grievances, under which they have so long laboured. What Weight they will have with you, we cannot assure ourselves ; but this we have no Doubt of, that you will consider them with the utmost Candor and Impartiality.

It is a great Satisfaction to us, and must be so to every Friend of Liberty, that the Management of this Affair is put into the Hands of Persons every way so capable of conducting it. And it is a considerable Instance of the good Judgment of our general Meetings, that they have chosen a Committee of such Eminence for Fortune, Integrity, Capacity and Influence, as can scarce be equalled in the whole Body of Dissenters, We



We doubt not but you are fully appriz'd of the Importance of the Trust committed to you; a Trust no less than that of our civil and religious Rights, of our Liberties, both as *Englishmen* and *Christians*; and that the successful Discharge of it will call for all your Prudence and Discretion. But, Gentlemen, RESOLUTION is as necessary in this Affair as *Prudence*: The one you appear to possess in an eminent Degree; and, we flatter ourselves, you will not be found to fall short in the other. The just and laudable Spirit of Liberty, which seems so generally to prevail at present amongst the Dissenters, well deserves your Attention. Very unhappy Consequences may spring from it to ourselves, if too much discountenanced and opposed; and the most valuable Effects may be secur'd, if duly encouraged and improved.

It is in your Power to reconcile our different Sentiments, and to procure that Unanimity so much insisted on by you, and so earnestly desired by all. As your Want of Resolution seems to have been almost the only Obstacle to it hitherto, your hearty Concurrence with us would most effectually promote it; you would then have scarce a single Hand against you amongst ourselves, and, we apprehend, no considerable Discouragement from without. Our whole Strength thus united, would, in all Appearance, under your wise Conduct and Direction, be more than equal to all the Difficulties that would then lie in the Way, and almost assure us of Success.

Thus, Gentlemen, you have the fairest Opportunity put into your Hands of being the glorious Instruments of procuring us the long expected Deliverance, and of greatly contributing to make us a flourishing and a happy People. For this you will have the hearty Thanks of the whole Body of Dissenters, and the Applause of every Friend of Liberty throughout the Kingdom. By this you will leave your Families a more valuable Legacy than the largest Fortune, and procure to yourselves immortal Honour.



# REASONS

For applying to

## PARLIAMENT,

THE

Enfuing Sessions, for the Repeal  
of so much of the Corporation  
and Test-Acts, as affect the  
Protestant Dissenters, &c.

[Price One Penny.]





